(a) whether kerosene being allotted to Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh is in proportion to the national average;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quota of kerosene is proposed to be increased in view of the increasing population and the dependence of the rural people on kerosene;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Kerosene allocation to various States/Union Territories including Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, under Public Distribution System is made as per the policy adopted by Government. The allocation policy involves several factors including past allocations and domestic LPG connections released in the respective states every year.

Under-Invoicing by Exporters/Importers

*386. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Customs authorities have imposed penalty on several, exporters/importers and individuals for underinvoicing exports/imports under COFEPOSA during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to strengthen various laws to check such frauds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Seven persons were detained under COFEPOSA during last three years. There is no penalty imposable under this Act. Through the Finance Act, 2003, Government have already strengthened various provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, particularly section 113, 114, 135 and 136.